

TO: The Federal Communications Commission

Washington DC

Subject: RM-11699 Encryption of Amateur Radio Communications

The ability to encrypt emergency data such as patient HIPPA data is vital for RACES official government and hospital communications. Pima County RACES feels the need strong enough that we are prepared to encrypt such data, if required and tasked, using emergency provisions contained with FCC rules. However this capability is hindered by not being able to practice outside of emergencies. Such practice would also demonstrate the capability and promote the distribution of encryption keys to official agencies before an emergency that could not otherwise be distributed during a communications emergency.

Sincerely,

William Hickey

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